



**Transcript for the November 19th, 2014, Webchat
International Education Week**

Q. Am I required to pay a SEVIS fee?

A. F-1, M-1 and J-1 visa applicants are required to pay the SEVIS fee. You'll find further information at www.ice.gov. It is important to remember that the SEVIS fee must be paid before you apply for the visa otherwise your application will be denied.

Q. I want to study, how can I do that?

A. If you want to study in the U.S. the first thing you need to do is select a school. The Fulbright Commission at www.fulbright.org.uk can help with that. Another great resource is EducationUSA at www.educationusa.info and exchanges.state.gov the school will issue you with the form I-20A-B, or I-20M-N if the program is vocational, or DS-2019 if you are studying under an approved exchange visitor program. Next step is to apply for the visa and information on that is available for our website at london.usembassy.gov.

Q. Hi i am planning to visit New York on 4/12/14-9/12/14 i live in UK hold Nepalese passport with ILR

A. if you have a Nepalese passport, you'll need a visa in order to travel to the U.S. If you don't already have one, a B-2 visa is appropriate for tourism. Information about the B-2 visa is available from the embassy website, <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html>

Q. We need a J1 VISA in December during a tight window-in-time. My questions are: 1. Must I attend in person or can it be handled in Manchester or Liverpool? 2. Can everything be sorted in one visit, including stamping the passport (as long as you're happy of course)? 3. How long are we likely to be there?

A. There are no consulates in Manchester or Liverpool, you will have to appear in person at the Embassy in London. We can't offer same day issuance, standard processing time for a nonimmigrant visa is 3-7 working days, following a successful interview. You should expect to be at the Embassy for at least 2 hours

Q. Hello! I am a British citizen and my wife is a US citizen. We are currently living in the UK but I have applied for an immigration visa to the US and have my interview coming up at the US embassy in London. My first question is this, do I need to wear a suit to the interview? I assume it is a formal interview. And secondly, we were sent a document checklist for the interview but wondered if we are required or encouraged to bring other documents (wedding photos, letters from family in the US or prospective employers) for further evidence? Thank you!

A. Its not a requirement that you wear a suit, it's totally up to you. You should bring the documents listed on the document checklist, and if anything else is required, the consular officer will advise you. It's not a requirement to bring documents from prospective employers



Q. Hello, My mother (Indian citizen) is here in UK on a tourist visa. She is planning to visit my brother in US from here. Can she apply for US tourist visa from UK?

A. Yes, if she is physically present in the UK, she can apply at the Embassy in London. All applicants must show strong ties outside the United States so, if your mother does not have any strong ties to the UK, she may find it difficult to meet that requirement when applying here. Consular officers can't adjudicate ties to third countries

Q. Can I work if I am studying in the U.S.? I'd like to get a part-time job

A. It depends. J-1 visa holders may engage in part-time employment under certain conditions. An F-1 visa holder may work on campus for up to 20 hours during their first year of study and an M-1 visa holder may only accept employment if it is part of his or her practical training. We suggest that you contact the International School Advisor for further information

Q. How far ahead of my studies can I enter the United States?

A. Provided you have the I-20 or DS-2019 and have paid the SEVIS fee, you may apply for the visa up to 120 days before the start of your program and may enter the United States up to 30 days before. If you wish to enter more than 30 days before the start of the program you'll need a B-2 visa and declare your intention to study at the time you apply

Q. I'm applying for an F-1 to study in Boston, can my girlfriend get a visa to come with me? It's a three year course

A. If your girlfriend wants to travel with you and stay, she may be eligible for a B-2 visa to accompany you. At the time she applies, she would be required to demonstrate your relationship (e.g. joint accounts, joint residence). If she only wants to visit you, and is otherwise qualified, she may be eligible to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program. Information about the VWP is available from the Embassy website
<http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/vwp.html>

Q. I'm currently studying in VA, my visa has expired and i need to book an appointment for the Christmas vacation when I'll be back in the UK. Can I book now? How long will it take to get my visa back?

A. You can book an appointment now for December, the appointment calendar is open through January 2015. We recommend that you book well in advance, to avoid disappointment. The appointment calendar is a live service and applicants will always be offered the earliest appointment according to their circumstances. Following a successful interview, applicants can expect to wait 5-7 working days for their documents to be returned to them

Q. I'm going to be studying in Michigan from January, when my semester is finished, can i travel for a bit? What about Canada, can i visit Toronto and then return to the states to fly home?

A. If you are studying with an F-1 visa, this allows 60 days at the end of your course for you to travel in the U.S. If you travel to Canada or Mexico after your course has finished, then wish to return to the U.S. to fly home, you will need a B-2 (tourist) visa or, if otherwise qualified, may



travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program. Check your eligibility for visa free travel via our website - <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/vwp.html>

Q. I've heard that I need to have the flu jab in order to travel to America, is that true?

A. We're not aware of any requirement that you have a flu shot before travelling to the U.S. but if you are going to the U.S. to work or to be a student, you should contact the school or employer to find out what their requirements are before you travel.

Q. I have a refugee travel document issued by the UK government, can I use this to apply for a visa?

A. Provided that the travel document states your nationality, if any and is valid for travel to the United States and return to the country of issuance, you may present it in support of a visa application. The final determination on all applicants' eligibility can only be made by a consular officer at the time they apply.

Q. My appointment is next week, I haven't paid a SEVIS fee, will my application be refused because of this?

A. You should pay the SEVIS fee before you attend the appointment and ensure that you bring the receipt with you to show the consular officer. You'll find further information at www.ice.gov